

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OATH
ORIGINAL APPLICATION
FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

I, William D. Taper, being first sworn, depose and state:

THAT I am a citizen of the United States of America and reside in Southern Pines, Moore County, State of North Carolina;

THAT I have read and understand the disclosure and claims of the specification attached hereto and made a part hereof which is entitled "**LOCKING MECHANISM FOR HANDCUFFS**" and which is further identified by attorney docket number 03.08.21.1;

THAT I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter, or improvement thereof, claimed in the said specification;

THAT I, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56, acknowledge that I have a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to the patentability of each claim pending in the said specification;

THAT I do not claim the benefit of the filing date of a prior foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate;

THAT I, pursuant to 35 USC 120, do hereby claim the benefit of the filing date of prior co-pending application SN 10/394,668 filed March 21, 2003 by William D. Taper and SN 10/091,272 filed March 5, 2002 by William D. Taper and Gary S. Frost, now USP 6,568,224 issued May 27, 2003.

Insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I further state:

I do not know and do not believe that the invention claimed in the said specification was known or used by others in this country, or was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, or was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in this country before the invention thereof by me;

I do not know and do not believe that the invention claimed in the said specification was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, or was in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the filing date of this application in this country; and

I do not know and do not believe that the invention claimed in the said specification was first patented or caused to be patented, or was the subject of an inventor's certificate, by me or my legal representatives or assigns in a foreign country prior to the date of application for patent in this country on an application for patent or inventor's certificate filed more than twelve months before the filing date of this application in the United States.

My current mailing address is:

P.O. Box 518
Southern Pines, North Carolina 28388

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true. I understand that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, (18 USC 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.


William D. Taper

1-28-04
Date

STATE OF North Carolina)
COUNTY OF Moore) SS.

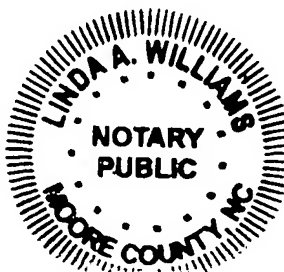
Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared William D. Taper, known by me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the annexed and foregoing instrument, and such person declared to me that he executed the instrument as his free and voluntary act and deed for the purposes and in the capacity therein expressed.

Subscribed and acknowledged before me by the said William D. Taper this 28th day of Jan, 2004.


NOTARY PUBLIC

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:

11-28-04



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Please recognize Thomas R. Weaver, Registration No. 25,613, as Principal Attorney to represent the undersigned before the United States Patent and Trademark Office and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office pertaining to the application for United States Letters Patent entitled **"LOCKING MECHANISM FOR HANDCUFFS"** the oath of which was executed by the undersigned on the _____ of January 2004, and which is further identified by Attorney Docket No. 03.08.21.1.

The powers granted herein to the above identified Principal Attorney by the undersigned include, but are not limited to:

The right to receive and respond to all notices, official letters and other communications from the Patent and Trademark Office which relate to the application and to any LETTERS PATENT maturing therefrom;

The right to appear in person and to execute all papers in practice before the Patent and Trademark Office in matters pertaining to the application and to any and all Letters Patent maturing therefrom;

The right to examine and review all papers in the files of the Patent and Trademark Office pertaining to the application and to any LETTERS PATENT maturing therefrom which could be examined and reviewed by the undersigned; and

The right to appoint associate attorneys.

Please direct all correspondence to:

Thomas R. Weaver
Attorney-At-Law
P.O. Box 1405
Duncan, Oklahoma 73534

TELEPHONE (580) 255-6911

To correspond directly with the undersigned, please direct such correspondence to:

William D. Taper
P.O. Box 518
Southern Pines, North Carolina 28388

(910) 695-1661

Very truly yours,


William D. Taper